

VZCZCXRO9418
RR RUEHAG RUEHROV
DE RUEHBS #1618 2941115
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 201115Z OCT 08
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8135
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 001618

SIPDIS

STATE PASS EUR/WE, EUR/ERA, AND L/LEI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/15/2018
TAGS: [CJAN](#) [EUN](#) [KCRM](#) [KJUST](#) [KTIA](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [BE](#)
SUBJECT: BELGIUM: EXTRADITION AND MLAT RATIFICATION PROCESS
ON TRACK

REF: STATE 104974

Classified By: Acting Political Economic Counselor Robert Kiene for Reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

1. (C) PolEconOff spoke with MFA Counselor for Justice and Legal Issues Peter Claes (Directorate General for European Cooperation and Coordination) on September 30, October 9, and October 14 to discuss the status of the Extradition and MLAT ratification process. Claes indicated the European Commission has pressured both FM DeGucht and JustMin Vandeuren on the need to ratify the treaties as soon as possible. The GOB is aware of the urgency. Claes confirmed the treaty package would go to the Council of Ministers Friday, October 24, and expected its transfer to the Conseil d'Etat for judicial review the following week. The Conseil's review process requires one month. Once the Conseil's review is complete, it will move to Parliament, where the Belgian administration has already begun to prepare Parliamentarians for its arrival and hopefully quick passage. Reftel's December prediction for passage remains accurate.

2. (C) Post believes the Belgian system is functioning, as quickly as possible. We are confident the MFA and Justice Ministry will do what is necessary to move the treaty through the Belgian ratification process. We will continue to communicate with our contacts on a regular basis and monitor the treaties' progress. Our contacts warn that undue pressure at high levels may in this case be counterproductive.

.